

The story of the Boy and the King

Islamic Stories - Volume 31

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Chapter 1: The King's Realm and the Sorcerer's Legacy

A Kingdom Rooted in Magic:

In a bygone era, a king ruled over a vast domain. Among his trusted advisors was a sorcerer who served the kingdom through his mystical arts. As the sorcerer advanced in age, he approached the king with a pressing concern: he required an apprentice to carry forward his craft.

Sorcerer:

"I have grown old. Assign me a boy so I may teach him the art of magic."

The king acquiesced and selected a young boy to be sent regularly to the sorcerer for instruction.

Chapter 2: The Boy's Encounters with Faith

A Pathway of Two Worlds:

On his daily route to the sorcerer, the boy would pass by a monk who resided nearby. Curiosity led him to sit with the monk and listen to his words. Over time, the boy found the monk's teachings compelling and began dividing his time between the monk and the sorcerer.

When the boy arrived late to the sorcerer, he was punished. He confided in the monk, who offered tactful advice:

Monk:

"If you fear the sorcerer, tell him your family detained you. If you fear your family, say the sorcerer held you back."

Chapter 3: A Test of Truth

The Beast on the Road:

One day, the boy encountered a ferocious beast blocking the path of travellers. Seeing an opportunity to discern whose teachings were true, he made a sincere plea:

Boy:

"O Allah, if the monk's path is more beloved to You than that of the sorcerer, then kill this beast with this stone so the people may pass."

He hurled the stone, and the beast perished instantly, allowing the people to continue.

Recognition from the Monk:

The boy recounted the event to the monk, who recognised the divine favour bestowed upon him.

Monk:

"My son, today you have surpassed me. You have reached a stage I can see clearly. Soon, you will be tested. If that happens, do not disclose my identity."

Chapter 4: Miracles and Influence

Healing by Divine Will:

By the will of Allah, the boy began curing the blind and those afflicted with leprosy, even healing various other illnesses. Word of his healing powers spread until a blind courtier of the king sought him out, bearing many gifts.

Courtier:

"If you heal me, all these gifts shall be yours."

Boy:

"I do not heal anyone. Healing is granted only by Allah. If you believe in Him, I will pray to Him, and He will heal you."

The courtier believed and was cured.

Chapter 5: Revelation and Retribution

The King's Suspicion:

When the courtier resumed his position beside the king, the king inquired about his restored sight.

King:

"Who restored your vision?"

Courtier:

"My Lord!"

King:

"Do you have a lord besides me?"

Courtier:

"My Lord and yours is Allah alone."

Angered, the king tortured him until he revealed the identity of the boy. The boy, when summoned, was accused of mastering magic to such an extent that he could heal diseases.

Boy:

"I do not heal. It is Allah alone who grants healing."

He, too, was tortured until he disclosed the monk's identity.

Chapter 6: Martyrs of Faith

Execution of the Monk and the Courtier:

The monk was brought forward and ordered to renounce his faith. He refused.

Narrator:

"A saw was brought and placed upon the centre of his head, and he was split into two."

The courtier met the same fate.

Chapter 7: Attempts on the Boy's Life

The Mountain Trial:

The king commanded a group to take the boy to a mountaintop and pressure him to recant. If he refused, they were to hurl him down.

Boy (praying):

"O Allah, suffice me against them however You will."

The mountain trembled; all others fell, and the boy returned unharmed.

The Sea Ordeal:

Next, the king ordered him taken to sea with the same command. Again, the boy prayed:

Boy:

"O Allah, suffice me against them however You will."

The boat capsized; all perished except the boy, who returned once more to the king.

Chapter 8: A Martyr's Wisdom

The Boy's Final Counsel:

The boy addressed the king directly:

Boy:

"You will not be able to kill me unless you do what I tell you."

King:

"And what is that?"

Boy:

"Gather the people in an open plain, tie me to a tree trunk, take an arrow from my quiver, place it in the bow, and say, 'In the name of Allah, the Lord of the boy,' then shoot me. You will then succeed in killing me."

The king obeyed, and the boy was martyred with those exact words.

Chapter 9: Faith Awakens the Masses

The Turning of Hearts:

Witnessing this, the people declared their belief:

People:

"We believe in the Lord of the boy!"

The king, fearing rebellion, realised the gravity of what had occurred.

Chapter 10: The Fire Trenches

The People's Trial:

The king ordered trenches to be dug along the roads and set aflame. He commanded that those who did not recant their faith be cast into the fire. Among them was a woman carrying an infant. She hesitated at the brink.

Infant:

"Mother, be patient, for indeed you are upon the truth."